

Applicants : Gregory S. Marczak et al
Serial No. : 09/899,591
Page No. : 2

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend the specification at Pg. 6, Lns. 11-21 with the following replacement paragraphs:

Unless otherwise specified, [As] as used herein, “web” means a length of aluminum including top and bottom surfaces anodized before treatment in the tank 50. The anodizing of raw aluminum may occur at the anodizing station 30 (which is shown in a condensed form). The surfaces may be anodized using a conventional anodizing process such as sulfuric acid anodizing or phosphoric acid anodizing. In the preferred embodiment, the web is sulfuric acid anodized with a sulfuric acid concentration preferably of about 50 to 100 grams per liter, and more preferably about 150 to 400 grams per liter. As will be appreciated, sheets of anodized aluminum and individual pieces of aluminum structures may be etched in a manner similar to that described herein in connection with the web.

Preferably, before introduction to the tank 50, the web 100 is colored or sealed according to commercially acceptable coloring and sealing practices. The coloring and/or sealing may also occur at station 30 which, for purposes of disclosure, may comprise one or more individual stations, for example an anodizing station, a coloring station and/or a sealing station. If colored, both surfaces of the web is colored. Optionally, the web 100 also may be brightened, polished, cleaned or desmutted using commercially acceptable methods before introduction into the tank 50.

Applicants : Gregory S. Marczak et al
Serial No. : 09/899,591
Page No. : 3

Please replace the paragraph at Pg. 10, Lns. 4-5, with the following replacement paragraph:

The etching system 210 may further include a drain 252, pump 254 and back flow line 256 to circulate etching solution 220 in the form of a liquid for re-use. An anodizing, coloring and/or sealing station 230 may be upstream of the tank 250 to perform the anodizing, coloring and/or sealing of a raw aluminum web before the web advances to the tank 250.

Please replace the paragraph at Pg. 10, Lns. 20-22, with the following replacement paragraph:

Fig. 5 depicts a second alternative embodiment of an etching system 310 which generally includes guides 370, tank 350 filled with etching composition 320, film applicator 380 and optionally film rewind 360. An anodizing, coloring and/or sealing station 330 may be upstream of the tank 350 to perform the anodizing, coloring and/or sealing of a raw aluminum web before the web advances to the tank 350.